



ALL SAINTS KINGSTON

Annual Report



2024-2025

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Overview

Summary of the year –The Vicar, Revd Joe Moffatt,

John Dewhurst & Roshan Jathanna, Church Wardens

Another busy and exciting year in the life of All Saints has seen a variety of new developments. The four priorities of the Mission Action Plan (Children & Young People, Communications, Community Partnerships and Eco Church) have each been steadily advanced. Other initiatives have emerged, such as our prayer groups. Meanwhile, the church has continued to be open seven days a week, offering a warm welcome, a listening ear and an enriching pattern of worship. We thank our huge team of volunteers for enabling this to happen.

In the last Annual Report we had the huge pleasure of welcoming Revd Sarah Williams as our new part-time Curate following her ordination as Deacon at Southwark Cathedral. In 2024 we were delighted to host the Kingston Episcopal Area Ordination Service at which she was ordained Priest by the Bishop of Kingston. Sarah celebrated her first Eucharist on Sunday July 7th, followed by a joyous Parish Lunch in Sarah's Café. Sarah has continued to develop the fortnightly Bereavement Café and the monthly Youth Café, in addition to leading Quiet Days and a new Ignatian Prayer Space. Charlie Thompson, an Ordinand in training for ministry at St Mellitus College is in his second year of three with us and continues to preach, to serve and to participate in groups. Iain Beith, from St Paul's Kingston Hill, also spent time with us during the year in preparation for his licensing as a Reader. And most recently, we're absolutely delighted to welcome Revd Dr Sylvie Collins-Mayo to our Ministry team as an Assistant Priest, following her licensing by the Archdeacon of Wandsworth in his final service at All Saints before his retirement.

The steady daily rhythm of Sunday and weekday services has continued unbroken throughout the year, with 150 Sunday services and 196 on weekdays services. The introduction of monthly 9.30am All-Age services, which feature our Junior Choir, has been warmly received and has enabled the provision of Choral Matins at 11.00am on these Sundays. In addition to the Ordination Service, special services during the year included a Confirmation Service in May, the Civic Remembrance Service, the historic Crown Court Service and the annual Mayoral Service. The choir was joined at Choral Evensong on Sunday 23rd March by Kings' Voices, the mixed-voice choir of King's College, Cambridge, to mark our centuries-old association with the College as our Patron. There have also been two baptisms, two weddings and six funerals during the year. A further liturgical innovation has seen the provision of occasional 'Wholeness and Healing' services in the Holy Trinity Chapel on Sunday mornings following the main service.

A well-attended series of Faith Talks took place during the year, with outstanding keynote speakers and panellists. Evensongs during Lent featured a series of guest preachers, all highly experienced Chaplains working in a variety of contexts, who explored the theme 'Speaking of God' from the perspectives of their own working experience. These sermons provided the basis for a series of well attended and highly stimulating weekly Lent discussion groups.

The social side of All Saints life has been anything but neglected. A second Parish Lunch took place, this one to celebrate our Patronal Festival, whilst an exhilarating Burns' Night and a highly competitive Quiz Night provided something different for everyone.

The 'Lifting Young Voices' project, which began in September 2023, was turbo-charged during the year by the award of a substantial 'Diocesan Improvement Programme' Grant by the Diocese of Southwark to enable it to develop into an even more ambitious project called 'Growing Faith Through Singing' (see below). This has seen our church community joined by Phoebe Tak Man Chow as Assistant Director of Music and Emma Smellie, Freddie Ingles and Sebastian Maclaine as Lay Clerks / Choral Trainers. The project's outreach work has now extended to four local primary schools, with several others in the pipeline.

Looking ahead, preparations are now well advanced for the commemorating the 1100th anniversary of the coronation of King Athelstan in Kingston in 925AD. A day of celebration on Thursday 4th September (the actual anniversary) will include the unveiling of the remaining panels of our 'Seven Saxon Kings' series of embroideries and also a special Anniversary Service in the evening. We also look forward to welcoming Michael Stokes, who is to be a Pioneer Curate associated with the 'Growing Faith Through Singing' project and who is to be ordained Deacon at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 28th June. As always at All Saints, there is much to look forward to.

Diocese Vision 2024-2035 (brief summary) – Joe Moffatt

All Saints is part of the Diocese of Southwark and fully embraces the Southwark Vision for 2024-2035. This is to be **Christ Centred and Outward Focused**, as we walk together, discerning God's wisdom and guidance in our shared pilgrimage of faith.

The priorities for the Vision are:

- Maintaining the highest possible number of stipendiary clergy whilst continuing to grow lay ministry
- Growing existing churches and establishing new worshipping communities
- Becoming younger and more diverse
- Deepening discipleship
- Seeking the healing of our communities and our world

Each of these priorities has a series of objectives which are intended to enable parishes and congregations to play their full part in growing God's Church and blessing God's world.

Deanery Synod report – Isabel Isaacson, PCC Secretary

Deanery Synods represent the parishes within a particular Deanery. The Deanery Synod provides a link between the PCC of each parish in the Deanery and the Diocesan Synod. Each parish elects its Deanery Synod representatives at the ACPM every three years. The number of representatives is based upon the size of the relevant electoral roll. All Licensed Clergy in the Deanery are automatically members of the Deanery Synod.

Kingston Deanery Synod meets three times each year (normally during February, June and October) and matters of interest to the deanery are discussed as well as news from the Diocese and also from individual parishes. The first meeting of 2025 focused on the Ministry of Youth and included a contribution from Katy Miller, our music intern, in relation to the Raising Young Voices project. There was also feedback from the Archdeacon's Parish Conversations. Future meetings will focus on the diocesan links with Zimbabwe / Matabeleland, and also on the environment.

Team Ministry report – Joe Moffatt, Team Rector

It's been good to see all three churches in our Team Ministry developing new mission initiatives. **St John the Evangelist**, in Spring Grove, have extended their thriving work with pre-school children by adding a Junior Church for primary school children that meets for worship and food every month. **St John the Baptist**, Kingston Vale, have made great strides in developing a project called the Wellspring Community. This includes ambitious plans to build a swimming pool behind their parish hall. Meanwhile, **All Saints**, in the town centre, has secured funding from the Diocesan Investment Programme to extend their Lifting Young Voices programme in local primary schools.

We continue to offer a joint **Lent Course** with mixed groups in each church discussing the sermons by guest preachers. In 2024 the theme was 'Ways of Praying'. In 2025 we have been thinking about 'Speaking of God' with the help of some experienced chaplains working in challenging settings. This included sermons by our own Mandy Beck and Sarah Williams, both of whom offer chaplaincy alongside their parish ministry.

As a group of parishes, we have started a 12-month **Growing Leaders** course with participants and mentors from all three churches. We hope that the 10 participants will grow in confidence and discern a call from God to offer a variety of ministries within our churches.

Our Clergy Team continues to meet every week for the sharing of news, mutual support and a time of prayer. We are very pleased that **Sylvie Collins-Mayo** has recently joined us as an Assistant Priest and we look forward to welcoming **Michael Stokes** as a Pioneer Curate in July. Expanding the team in this way will mean that we can circulate around the churches a bit more regularly. We're also delighted that licensed lay ministry is growing with the recent addition of **Julie Bishop** as a Licensed Lay Pastoral Minister at St John the Evangelist.

Finally, we look forward to the re-introduction of a joint annual service. This will be on Ascension Day, May 29th, with an outdoor evening service (weather permitting) in the orchard of St John the Baptist Kingston Vale, preceded by picnic and games.

PCC report – Isabel Isaacson

The All Saints Parochial Church Council met six times during the year following the 2024 APCM (June 2024-March 2025) and there were also five meetings of the PCC Standing Committee during this period. There are 11 elected and co-opted members and 11 ex officio members including the clergy, wardens and Deanery Synod representatives. The average attendance at meetings was 17. The PCC's regular business includes the monitoring of the Church's finances, reviewing Church life and events, health and safety issues, with a special focus on safeguarding and safeguarding training for PCC members, and preparing for forthcoming services and other events.

The creation and adoption of our Mission Action Plan in May 2023 provided an important focus for the work of the PCC. We identified four priority areas: children and young people, communications, community partnerships, Eco Church. The MAP sets out specific aims within each priority area and working groups have been formed to carry these out and to report on progress to the PCC. Some examples of initiatives are as follows: the Lifting Young Voices project; the Youth Café; a review of the web-site and branding; the creation of a fortnightly All Saints E-Bulletin; the Caring for Creation service; progress towards Silver Eco-Church award; the setting up of the bereavement café.

Key Areas



Finance - Gareth Williams Honorary Treasurer

Please see separate report



Fabric Inspection - John Dewhurst, Roshan Jathanna, Church Wardens & Paul Thompson, Assistant Church Warden

The Churchwardens are required to inspect the church building and the churchyard at least once each year, or to arrange for this to be done on their behalf ('The Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure, 1991'). The Churchwardens are required to present an annual report on the condition of the building to the Church Council and then to the Annual Parishioners' Meeting.

The Churchwardens can report, on the basis of the annual Fabric Inspection and an associated Risk Assessment, both carried out early in April 2025, that overall the church building is structurally sound, watertight, secure, safe, in good decorative order, clean and tidy, well-lit and heated, and is accessible by wheelchair. As confirmed by the most recent Quinquennial Inspection report (2023) the external condition of the building is no worse than may be expected for a building of its age. Work to address the recommendations of the report are ongoing, subject to financial constraints.

The churchyard is judged to be safe (work was done in December 2024 to secure some loose or cracked paving slabs in the drive-in) and it is clean and tidy, thanks in no small part to the continuing work of the Gardening Group and to the good relations with the RBK street cleaners that are fostered by Sarah's Cafe. Other than a tree which is overhanging an adjacent property, which will shortly be trimmed back by a contractor, the churchyard does not pose any threat to neighbouring buildings.

Gas, electricity and lightning conductor safety certificates are all up to date, as is the church's Public Liability Insurance.

A more detailed report is available on request.

Safeguarding - Alex Crook, Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding is at the heart of all we do at All Saints and is an integral part of our ministry and mission. As Parish Safeguarding Officer ("PSO") I endeavour to respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation as they arise, liaising as necessary with the clergy at All Saints, our Churchwardens and seeking advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team where appropriate. I am grateful for the guidance and support I have received from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team during the course of this year which has been timely, insightful and helpful. Our clergy team ensure that we care pastorally both for any victims/survivors of abuse and also those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse.

I work with the PCC to implement the policy and procedures found in the House of Bishop's Promoting a Safer Church safeguarding policy statement and the House of Bishop's safeguarding policies and practice guidance. The PCC must promote a safer church for all in our church community and it ensures there is a plan in place to raise awareness of safeguarding matters, promote training and ensure that safeguarding is taken seriously by all those in the church community. I support the PCC in doing and ensure that our safeguarding policy is reviewed and included on our website. My contact details are also advertised within the All Saints building.

Our parish continues to promote Safe Recruiting for volunteers in accordance with the procedures set out in A Safe Church. Our volunteers have DBS checks and these are renewed every 3 years. We have a volunteer handbook to support our volunteers in their roles and we observe the correct ratios for adults and children who participate in groups. Volunteers are aware of and work to the House of Bishop's safeguarding guidance and we keep a register of training, asking that all volunteers take part in online safeguarding training every 3 years. We also ensure that risk assessments are carried out for all new and existing parish activities where children and adults who may be vulnerable are participants.

We continue to use a shared secure online safeguarding account which is only accessible to a restricted number of people who need access to it. This secure safeguarding account contains electronic files relating to safeguarding, including a document recording DBS checks and safeguarding training records.

Earlier this year the Diocese of Southwark asked each parish to carry out a safeguarding self-audit. The purpose of this was for the Diocese to capture a true picture of how well we are working together to ensure that we have a safer Church for all. I worked collaboratively with Reverend Joe Moffatt to complete this audit and I reported back on our findings to the PCC. Areas for development included considering whether we should talk more about safeguarding in church in a way that celebrates and/or promotes safeguarding. Also we realised that we need to ensure that our policies for complaints, grievances and whistleblowing need to be signposted more clearly. Although the self-audit provided reassurance that we have a strong safeguarding culture at All Saints, we acknowledge that there is always more that can be done and we strive to ensure that any gaps in good practice are identified and dealt with.

Mission Action Plan Priorities

A) Children and Young People - *pioneer new ways to engage with children and young people*

Growing Faith Through Singing- Joe Moffatt

The aim of this project is to create church communities where children and young people can grow in faith through singing. The strategy is to:

- Engage with children by offering high-quality singing lessons to local state primary schools.
- Attract these children to join church-based children's choirs
- Involve these choirs in regular all-age worship
- Develop intentional catechesis interwoven with musical learning
- Engage with parents through concerts, around rehearsals/services and by offering enquirer courses
- Provide pathways for faith development in established choirs and new youth choirs.

The model is to be developed at All Saints, then offered to parishes across the diocese who wish to implement this form of choral mission.



The project began with a commitment in our 2023 Mission Action Plan to develop a programme of group singing lessons in local primary schools and start a Junior Choir. This was called our **Lifting Young Voices (LYV)** Programme which we began in September 2023. The PCC extended the hours of the Director of Music and appointed a part-time Choir administrator. Singing lessons were delivered in two schools for the full academic year. Termly LYV concerts in the church were organised for participating schools and the Junior Choir. The Junior Choir started in September 2023 with weekly Friday afternoon sessions and participation in regular Sunday services twice a term.



The project was then 'turbo-charged' by the award of a substantial 5-year grant from the Diocesan Investment Programme (part of a bid by the Diocese of Southwark for strategic funding from the national church). This started in September 2024 and enabled us to recruit an Assistant Director of Music, three Choral Trainers and a Music Intern. We're delighted that Phoebe Tak Man Chow, Freddie Ingles, Emma Smellie, Sebastian Maclaine and Katy Miller have joined us in these roles. The current priorities are to establish a good rapport with schools, recruit to the Junior Choir and reach out to the parents.

The expansion of the LYV programme since September 2024 has been very promising:

- Participating schools increased to 3 in Autumn Term, 4 in Spring Term and 7 in Summer Term.
- 3 are CofE; 2 are RC; 3 are Community Schools (mainly in deprived areas)
- Termly LYV concerts (spread over two dates in summer due to capacity)
- Junior Choir growing in numbers and confidence (from 16 in September to 20 in March)
- Monthly 9.30am all-age services with Junior Choir since September 2024 (main choir sing at 11am Choral Matins on these days). Attendances gradually increasing.
- 3 children 'graduated' to main choir.

We aim to increase participating schools to 8 by September 2025 and 10 by January 2026. We look forward to welcoming Michael Stokes as our Pioneer Curate to work alongside the Music Team in both the schools and at church.

The next stage of the project is the rollout to other parishes. This will begin with two pilot parishes in September 2025 and will involve the secondment of our Choral Trainers to work alongside the resident music team on a termly basis.

Our learnings so far are:

- Schools are very receptive, including non-church schools, and willing to pay after the first year.
- Forming a team makes a big difference - mutual support, sharing good practice, building relationships.
- Junior Choir works well but converting Friday attendance to Sunday worship is challenging - currently 50% - due to competing commitments, not least to other churches.
- Creating a new service time (e.g. Sunday 4pm) is not as successful as converting the regular service time (Sunday 9.30am) to an all-age format. This gets better attendance from the Junior Choir and their parents, and better support/integration with the main congregation. The appears to be no drop in numbers and only positive feedback. The added extra on these occasions (now monthly) is an 11am Choral Matins which is starting to attract a growing congregation (30+).



Youth Café – Katy Miller

The Youth Café has been meeting once a month, with a small group of youth from both ASK and the URC joining us to engage with a different theme each month. The themes have ranged from Christmas Crafts to milkshakes and various challenges, followed by small talks about a relevant passage, encouraging our youth to think carefully, relax and ask questions they have about faith or the Bible. Our most recent session was our "lent lessons", where we discussed the importance of Lent and Jesus's 40 days in the desert.

Once a term, the Youth Café has also travelled to Putney for diocese-wide Youth Ministry in Communion events, meeting other youth their age in similar groups across Southwark Diocese. Most recently, our youth embarked on a boat trip down the river Thames, spotting the London Eye, Parliament and multiple other famous London landmarks, all whilst partying with a silent disco or solving a murder mystery aboard the ship!



School Workshops – Jenny Bridges, Operations Manager

We currently run two main types of workshops –those in partnership with Kingston Museum (years 5&6) and standalone bespoke provision with schools that approach us directly with a specific heritage ask such as Kingston Academy (Yr 7).

The workshops have increased, due in part to King Athelstan's anniversary this year. Since September 2024 we have had 17 school classes whose pupils have soaked up the history of King Athelstan and beyond. If we'd had capacity during the Christmas period, several more would have taken place. After Easter, we have 8 classes booked and this is before the new school year in September when requests for dates tend to be most popular.

We're lucky to have Sarah Cantrill (Story Storks) to host with great enthusiasm and energy. Our special thanks also go to John Dewhurst, Joni Timmins and Nigel Duffin who led the Kingston Academy sessions with their knowledge and skill.

We look forward to future delivery which promises to be busy, as we hope to develop the provision of workshops offered.

B) Communications – 'raise our profile and extend our outreach through better communications'



Implementation of Comms Strategy - Kate Shrimpton, Comms Manager

Our re-brand and new logo have now been in place for a full calendar year and the new website has been live since October 2024 with average visitor numbers of 5,000/month. Both have had highly positive feedback, meeting our brand recognition goals to raise awareness of All Saints to both old and new audiences and increasing the number of people who use All Saints or attend our events.

All Saints was one of the finalists in the 'Best Brand of the Year' category, Kingston Borough Business Awards 2025. Although we didn't come away with the weighty glass award, we were pleased to be recognised and to be 'Highly Commended' in such a competitive field (see page 17 & 18).

Our Fortnightly emailed newsletter has 300 subscribers with an above average 70% open rate and our Social Media presence continues to expand with 350 Facebook followers and 614 Instagram followers with an average "reach" of 77,000, helping to drive awareness of our events and services with a consistent "All Saints Kingston voice" as we increase our presence in the lives of those living and visiting Kingston Upon Thames. As always, we hope to continue to grow over the next year.



Faith Talks - Kate Shrimpton

Our series of Faith Talks which took place between January 2024 and February 2025 were very well received with an average audience of 60+, mostly from outside of our usual congregation. Designed as "Town Hall" style debates, each was centred on important issues affecting the UK; Climate Change, Immigration, The Economy, The Changing shape of war, Artificial Intelligence and Housing.

The talks featured a number of well-known expert speakers including Lord Alderdice, former Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly and leader of the Alliance party, James Robbins Former BBC Diplomatic Editor and Dr Krish Kandiah, founder of the Sanctuary Foundation, with rebuttal from an interesting and knowledgeable panel and questions from the audience moderated by Bishop Martin. Our aim was to be "Faith based, but not faith biased" with the talks presenting an exciting outreach opportunity, covered by local news such as the Kingston courier. Each debate is available to watch on our YouTube channel.

C) Partnerships – ‘invest in our partnerships so that we better understand the needs of our community’

Local Ecumenical Partnership with Kingston URC- Joe Moffatt

Our formal partnership with Kingston United Reformed Church continues to be very fruitful. We share Lent Courses and Services during Holy Week. We run Confirmation Courses together and take it in turns to host an annual Confirmation Service. We run the Youth Café together, enabling young people from both churches to get to know each other and benefit from a larger group.

In January 2025 we started an enquirers course called ‘What Christians Believe’ which uses material from the Emmaus Course. A dozen people participated, four of whom are being baptised at All Saints at Easter. The course will continue after Easter and will prepare people for Confirmation.

We have recently started to rent a ‘back office’ in the Richard Mayo Centre (the suite of rooms behind the URC church). This helps our admin and clergy teams keep in close touch with our URC counterparts. And I continue to value meeting Lesley Charlton, the Senior Minister, on a fortnightly basis for mutual support.



Bereavement Café- Sheila Bryant, Assistant Churchwarden

The Bereavement Café was created In November 2023, with support from Princess Alice Hospice. It is a safe space, where anyone, who is grieving following the loss of a loved one, can find solace.

Our loyal team of volunteers continues to host the café every alternate Wednesday afternoon from 2-3pm, and Sarah Cogger kindly provides a comforting hot drink.

We have guests who have been coming regularly since the beginning. The number of those attending, varies between 1 and 8. Feedback is positive, and the facilitators believe it is important to offer this safe space regularly, even if only one person comes to us for comfort.

We have begun to offer ASK's Listening Service as alternative for anyone for whom bereavement is no longer their prime need.

We are grateful to Kate, Communications Manager, who provides us with leaflets and promotes the Café on social media but any extra ideas or help to spread the word in the community would be welcome.



WelCare Stay & Play groups - Kate Shrimpton

This joint initiative between All Saints Kingston and Kingston WelCare offers a weekly pre-schooler session and a bi-monthly primary aged after school craft session during term time.

A team of DBS vetted and trained volunteers, led by a senior playworker; Symone Stewart supports parents and carers through active listening techniques to encourage engagement in various available resources and the opportunity to meet other parents to cultivate supportive relationships.

The sessions are largely non-religious, however, Joe did lead a popular Christmas session teaching the pre-schoolers the Christmas story with crochet figures of the nativity and families are encouraged to visit the café and children's corner as a step into the All Saints Kingston community.

Stay and Play sessions have had to reduce from twice a week to once a week and the craft sessions from once a month to once every two months due to the initial funding reducing in scope and we are actively seeking alternative funding for the period ahead.



Kingston Action on Homelessness (KCAH) - Julian Adams (Trustee)

As part of its Mission Action Plan commitment to invest in partnerships in order to better understand the needs of our community, All Saints continued to support and promote the work of KCAH in various ways throughout the year. The largest single event was its hosting of the Big Sleep Out in October. The event was organised to raise local awareness and to experience the reality of sleeping out of doors and was

the first of its kind in ten years. A small team from the church were among 41 local volunteers and we raised just over [£5,000] to support the work of KCAH and the occasion as a whole was the charity's largest event in 2024 raising £35,000 in total. Fund raising continued throughout the year through the choir's cake sale and the very well supported carol singing in the Bishop's pub shortly before Christmas. As important as its financial support, All Saints also highlighted the issue of homelessness in one of its Faith Talks which dealt with the Housing Crisis of which homelessness is the most extreme manifestation.



Christian Aid (including Christmas Tree Choirs) – Sue Watts

All Saints continues to be an active member of the Kingston Christian Aid Committee. The joint service at the beginning of Christian Aid Week was held at All Saints this year with a collection of £371. A successful Quiz Night, street dancing on the Flag Day, sponsoring walkers for the London Freedom Walk, as well as cake and plant sales meant that, together, the Kingston churches raised £11,889 (Off-line: £8919; Just Giving: £2970) for the work of Christian Aid. Donations via the traditional red envelopes amounted to a quarter of the money raised. On-line donations were made through a Just

Giving page or by using its associated QR code. The year ended with carol singing in Clarence Street and the very successful 'Carols Around the Christmas Tree' at All Saints.

In 2025 Christian Aid will celebrate its 80th anniversary and at All Saints we would welcome new volunteers to participate in our fundraising efforts.

Thanks are due to Isabel Isaacson and Sheila Bryant for organising the fundraising efforts and to our volunteers for giving their time and energy to support the ever important work of Christian Aid.



For Christmas, 2024, it was decided to have one Christmas tree rather than the usual Christmas Tree Festival and to invite local choirs (Euphonix, Eclipse and Canbury Singers) each to sing for an hour around the tree on the three Sunday afternoons before Christmas. This was very well received by those sitting in the café or passing through the church, who stood to listen and even joined in with the singing. In total £1200 was raised. With an extra donation, the three chosen charities: Christian Aid (Middle East Crisis Appeal), Refugee

Action Kingston and Kingston Welcare, each received £656. Following this encouraging result, it is hoped that similar arrangements can be put in place for 2025.

We extend grateful thanks to the choirs for their generous participation in this event and also to Liz and Alastair Deller for a smooth handover.

Kingston Faith and Belief Forum – Joe Moffatt

In September 2024 I was elected as Chair of the Forum. This feels like a natural role to take on given our regular hosting of civic and interfaith events. The Forum brings together representatives (many of whom are volunteers) from a broad range of communities. There will normally be around 20 at our quarterly meetings. We discuss a topic of mutual interest, plan events and liaise with local council officers and other borough institutions like the police and local health services.

We organise the annual Holocaust Memorial Day event in February and a programme of events in Interfaith Week in November. Affiliated groups like the Dialogue Society (Muslim) and Namaste (Hindu) actively invite forum members to a range of other interfaith events.

The Forum also produces a very informative monthly ebuletin. All our welcome to signup via this webpage: [About us - Kingston Faith and Belief Forum](#)

'Churches Together' in Kingston – Joe Moffatt

We have good relations with a number of churches near the centre of Kingston, in particular: Kingston URC, Kingston Methodist Church, Kingsgate Church, St Raphael's RC Church and our Anglican neighbours (St John's Spring Grove, St Peter's Norbiton, St Paul's Kingston Hill, St Luke's, St John's Hampton Wick). There is a Minister's meeting every term, and we have joint Prayer Services three times year. We hosted this service in January during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The churches also come together for the Walk of Witness on Good Friday.

D) Eco Church – 'work to become an Eco Church'

Overview – Joe Moffatt

The Eco Church Award scheme encourages churches to work across five areas. In June 2024 we achieved our Bronze Award. Much credit must go to the Eco Church Group, not least to Graham Nash, who was leading the team. Sadly, Graham moved out of Kingston in November but the group continues to progress towards a Silver Award. This report reflects the five sections of the scheme.



Worship and teaching – Joe Moffatt

We had another uplifting Creation Sunday Service in September which included a procession around the church, stopping at prayer stations to give thanks for the biodiversity in our churchyard. The preacher was Bishop Nicholas Holtam, formerly the lead Bishop for the Environment. We also had a well-attended Faith Talk on Climate Change and whether civil disobedience can be justified. Ruth Valerio, an expert theologian and environmentalist, was the main speaker.



Buildings and energy (including Net Zero) - Paul Thompson, Assistant Churchwarden

All Saints has committed to investigating what measures might be possible to reduce the energy consumption over time and move to greener energy sources. As a first step, the whole lighting system in the church has been replaced with LED bulbs, which are much more energy efficient. As a result, there has already been a significant reduction in our energy costs.

A grant application has been made to the Diocese 'Give to Go Green' (GTGG) match funding scheme, with the objective of upgrading the heating controls to give us better and more efficient management of the underfloor and perimeter heating, thus enabling a more economical use of the system by only heating those areas actually being used, rather than the whole building.

The current gas Boilers are relatively new, so replacing them now with an alternative greener heating option would not be sensible. We already have 16 solar panels which provide some contribution to our electricity costs from the Feed In tariff, but they are 10+ years old, and more efficient and modern ones are available – however the FIT is much lower, so the principle benefit would be the provision of 'offset' electricity – this would be most beneficial in the Summer when the sun is strongest. Meanwhile, we will monitor the developing costs and benefits of air source heat pumps as a permanent replacement for the boilers when they reach the end of their useful life and create a 'reserve' for the anticipated costs.

We also plan to improve the draught proofing around the inner North & South vestibule doors and hope to be able to gain a further GTGG grant for this.



Land and nature (Churchyard Gardening Group) – Carys Griffiths

The Gardening Team has been industrious during the year keeping the churchyard tidy and appealing to everyone who passes through or just sits to rest. The garden is much appreciated as a peaceful oasis in a busy town centre.

A bird bath and feeder with a camera to record feathered visitors have been installed on a south lawn tree. Recently we participated in the National one-week bird count and plan to carry out a butterfly count later. Both birds and butterflies are fast disappearing from our

environment.

The garden wood pile is proving to be quite successful as a home for creepy crawlies and two team members, have built a wooden compost bin for our use.

Interacting with the public, as an outreach for the church, is important to us when we meet weekly on Saturday mornings.

We thank Geoff Warman, who keeps our hedges under control, and David Maclean who comes periodically with his chainsaw.

Community and global engagement – Joe Moffatt

We planned a stunning exhibition of artwork and photography on the theme of Ecology and Sustainability working in partnership with Kingston Art Open Studios and Kingston Camera Club. It featured some inspiring images and depictions from Kingston as well as globally whilst maintaining the exhibition brief *'to communicate the message to the viewer that we need to be aware of the environment and the damage we were doing to it'*. This was viewed and appreciated by hundreds of visitors during the month of November. At a reception, judges from All Saints, Kingston Art Open Studios and Kingston Camera Club announced the winner of each group, who were then presented with a prize gift donated by Cass Art and Snappy Snaps. A similar exhibition on Sustainable London was hosted in March this year by the Royal Photographic Society.

We have participated in two Eco Pilgrimages led by the Bishop of Kingston, both of which started with prayers at All Saints before walking across Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common.

We continue to participate in the Kingston Environmental Forum which brings together all the local campaigners, activists and organisations concerned with the natural environment.



Lifestyle – Samantha Taylor

It was lovely to receive recognition of the steps we have taken to support Fairtrade. Not only did we complete an audit of the Fairtrade goods we use (e.g. tea, coffee, sugar), but we promoted Fairtrade Fortnight last September. You may well have seen the display put up to show the breadth of Fairtrade products available and where they originate, as well as read information in the fortnightly bulletin.

In addition, we continue to promote simple eco-friendly tips to help everyone reduce their CO2 footprint, promote recycling and reduce waste. These tips can be found in the weekly pew sheets. If you have any good tips of your own, please let us know!

Worship Groups



Music Dept – David Condry, Director of Music

The choir and music department at All Saints has had a busy and exciting year. At Easter, we said farewell to our Assistant Organist, Matthew O'Malley, who moved on to a new job in the midlands after many years loyal service to the church and the choir. We were delighted that our organ scholar, Alan Erdelyi, stepped into the role temporarily before leaving for Durham University in September.

Alongside the regular choral services, the choir undertook a highly successful tour to York Minster in October. The Dean of York, the Very Rev'd Dominic Barrington, a former singer in the choir of All Saints, was delighted to welcome us and everyone at the Minster were most impressed by the high musical standards we brought to their services over that weekend.

Only last week, the choir gave a wonderful performance of JS Bach's "St John Passion" with a professional baroque orchestra. This was an extremely impressive achievement and critical response from the audience has compared the standard to that of highly established professional choirs.

The music department is now up to full strength; our three Lay Clerk positions have now been filled. We welcomed Bass, Freddie Ingles in October, Alto, Emma Smellie in January, and Tenor, Sebastian Maclaine in March. In February we welcomed Phoebe Tak Man Chow as our new Assistant Director of Music. This means that not only is our choir enriched by their singing but the expansion of the LYV project in local schools can move forward apace.

I am, as ever, extremely grateful to everyone in the choir for their continued professional standards and commitment.



Bellringers - Paul Flavell, Tower Captain

All Saints have a good group of ringers which means we are usually able to ring all 12 bells on Sundays. We have wonderful new polo shirts including the new All Saints logo. A warm welcome to Joseph Al-Khalili and Catherine Choi who have joined the team and we are very pleased that Ed, Max C and Max M achieved their Bronze DoE award. We were very sorry to lose Andrew Bolton in August after a long illness.

We rang on 6 June for the D Day 'Ring for the Peace' commemorations. And on Christmas Day, Max and Kate were interviewed on BBC R5 Live by

Naga Munchetty!

We won both the Association six bell and eight bell trophies in October, and we also have had a tower barbeque and curries and an annual dinner.

Remedial work on the bells including refurbishment of the bearings and clappers is scheduled for early 2026.



Children's Church – Eithne Fray, Assistant Churchwarden

Children's Church meets weekly in the Heritage gallery during the Sunday Morning Eucharist and we have four leaders who take it in turns to lead the sessions. The children and their Leader go out to the Heritage gallery at the end of the first hymn and some parents like to join us for the session too. A Children's version of the Gospel for the day is told and the children are encouraged to do some artwork or activity based on this to help them to learn more about Jesus and of God's love for us all. Later in the session there is a collection taken and one of the children take this to the altar at the Offertory. At the end we all join the

main Congregation to receive Communion or a Blessing The children take home with them whatever they have made, pictures they have coloured etc as a reminder of the Gospel Story.



Servers - Libby Lewin

The serving team is made up of three people every Sunday during the morning service, consisting of a crucifer who carries the cross and two acolytes. Other special services also require the servers such as Evensong services around Christmas and Easter. Recently, some of the team have also been trained as a thurifer which is when incense is used during the service.

There is currently a team of seven people on the serving team. Thank you to those old and new and those who have been part of the serving team over the past year. If you have been confirmed and are interested in joining, it is always lovely to expand the team!

Sidespeople – Elwyn Griffiths

The Sidespeople Team was severely depleted following the Covid pandemic, some members never rejoined, some left due to ill health and some moved away. However, we have been fortunate in finding new recruits and currently have 17 dedicated volunteers for the 9-30 am Sunday morning service. More volunteers would be welcome. A smaller and separate group, supplemented during the year by several new recruits, covers Evensong.

There are usually three Sidespeople on duty at 9-30 am, their main role being Welcomers. Sidespeople have several other duties, including handing out hymn books, service and information sheets, arranging children's busy boxes, taking the collection and directing the congregation at communion.

The Sidespeople are also involved in other major services, such as Kingston Civic services, as well as occasional Ordination and Diocesan services. There are, of course, extra services at Easter and Christmas when they are on duty.

Possible changes to current practices are under discussion, which may include Sidespeople at the North as well as the West and South doors.

Readers & Intercessors - Anne Nicholson

There are currently 15 congregation members who regularly read Lessons or lead Intercessions at the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist Service, preparing the intercessions themselves. Another group read lessons at Choral evensong and the 8.00 am Communion Service.



Refreshments – Sian Adams

Thanks to a team of 13, we have the opportunity to enjoy refreshments after the 9.30 Sunday service. These volunteers help roughly once a month, while others help more occasionally, but together we have also been able to offer refreshments after Evensong during Lent and on other special occasions, like the recent visit of the King's Voices Choir. Outside of the hospitality offered to guests, we operate on a donation basis, with occasional cake fundraisers organised by our Choir and more recently by the Bell-ringers, with beneficiaries including the Choir Robes Appeal, KCAH (Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness), the

Matabeleland Lent Appeal and the Bells Refurbishment Project. But whether a regular Sunday, a special occasion or one with a fundraising focus, refreshments bring people together, help build our community and enable us to welcome visitors and guests.

To those who help in any way, your contribution is much appreciated. Do get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Prayer Groups



Lent and Advent Discussion Groups- Curate, Revd Sarah Williams

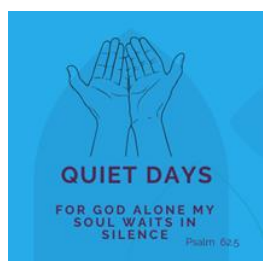
We have established a pattern of Lent and Advent discussion groups which have been very well attended.

The Lent 2024 programme was based on Evensong sermons under the title Let Us Pray... It involved a series of experienced guest preachers all well-known for their books, talks and prayer-based ministries. Through their sermons, they offered us the opportunity to learn about different prayer practices - praying with St Ignatius, with community, with humility, with poetry and with the Spirit. Our Lent discussion groups

then reflected on the sermons and tried out the different prayer practices.

At the conclusion of the series feedback was sought which was overwhelmingly positive with people appreciating the opportunity to draw closer to God through prayer as we journeyed through Lent together. Furthermore, as a result of the Lent series, we have expanded our prayer ministry. We now have a monthly Ignatian Prayer Space, a monthly Praying with Poetry group and have installed a prayer tree which is very well used.

For our Advent 2024 discussion group we used the Paula Gooder book, Women of the Nativity which consists of nine imagined stories all from the perspective of women including Mary and Elizabeth. These stories encouraged us to reflect on the fact that whilst Christmas is strongly associated with a child-friendly celebration, the realities for women living at that time were harsh. However, the stories also reminded us of the love and faithfulness of God who brings hope and courage when and where it is most needed.

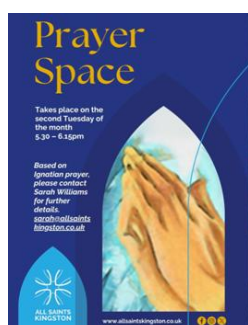


Quiet Days – Sarah Williams

There have been three Parish Quiet Days since February 2024, which have been timed to help us prepare either for Advent or Lent. They have all been held at the House of Prayer, a Christian Retreat Centre in East Molesey, with 15-18 people attending on each occasion.

The aim of the Quiet Days is to carve out space away from the busyness of our lives to spend time with God in prayer, reflection and silence. A deliberate slowing down is a very intentional part of them to ensure that we do not lose the seasons of Advent and Lent in a rush of activity. Each of the Quiet Days has been rooted in Scripture. The first was based on Psalm 37:7 "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him" and the second on Psalm 62:5 "For God alone my soul waits in silence: for my hope is from him." The most recent Quiet Day in February 2025 focused on The Transfiguration.

The feedback was that people really appreciated the break from everyday routines, enjoying the stillness and the opportunity to pause and breathe. It is intended that Quiet Days will be a regular feature of our Lent and Advent preparations.



Ignatian Prayer Space – Sarah Williams

The Ignatian Prayer space was established in June 2024. This was in response to feedback indicating enthusiasm to explore Ignatian Spirituality further following our Lent series last year "Let us pray..." when guest preachers at Sunday Evensong spoke about different ways of praying. The prayer space offers the opportunity to experience methods of prayer adapted from techniques described by St Ignatius of Loyola. We use the Examen, which is a way of reflecting prayerfully on the events of the day, or Imaginative Contemplation in which you imagine yourself as present in a Gospel scene and encountering Jesus there.

The prayer space runs on the second Tuesday of each month in the church and is open to anyone - no previous experience of Ignatian Spirituality is necessary. It is a quiet, reflective space which offers a retreat, even for a short time, from the busyness of our lives.



Praying through Poetry – Aysha Taha

This is a prayer initiative developed in response to the Lent 2024 sermon series on prayer and a congregational survey that identified poetry and Ignatian Prayer as key areas of interest for new prayer groups. Running from January to June 2025, the six-session series draws inspiration from the sermons Praying with Community by Revd Richard Carter (founder of The Nazareth Community at St Martin-in-the-Fields) and Praying with Poetry by The Very Revd Dr Mark Oakley (Dean of Southwark Cathedral).

Each session blends traditional poetry, contemporary spoken word, and immersive art to deepen prayer. The themes reflect both liturgical and everyday rhythms, featuring diverse voices and occasional guest poets. Co-led by Sheila Bryant and Aysha Taha, the sessions currently take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5:30–6:15pm at Sarah's Café, with three gatherings remaining. So far, the space has welcomed up to 20 participants from different churches and beyond.

Other Groups & Activities



Saxon Kings Embroidery Project – Revd Sandy Cragg

The decade-long Project is finally nearing completion. Our grateful thanks to all who have supported us with donations large and small and who have helped spread the word - please continue to do so, particularly about the forthcoming Presentations where we explain in detail the making process and show the embroidered samples. Panel 1 is completed - see photo - and panel 6 not far off, then both will be framed and installed, ready for the grand unveiling on September 4th. Panel 7, Ethelred, is living up to the modern understanding of his nickname "unready" (actually meaning "ill-advised" in his day) and will hopefully be viewable, embroidered though not framed, on

Sept 4th, to be installed early in 2026. September 4th is shaping up to be an exciting day, watch for further details. And finally, look out for the exciting range of Athelstan memorabilia coming to the shop.



Concerts & Recitals - Keith Long

There were 27 Monday lunchtime recitals in 2024. Artistes, who embraced a wide range of musical styles, ranged from established professionals to students at London's music schools. In the last category we were particularly pleased to accommodate one student's performance of her graduation recital, with the adjudicators in the audience. Audience numbers remain gratifyingly high, and audience members donated a total of nearly £4,800 to the church's music fund over the year. We are extremely grateful to the artistes, who all contribute their services free of charge and so help in the continuation of this series, which has become an established part of the town's musical life.



Listening Service – Sandy Cragg

Since 2003 we have offered a confidential listening service to anyone who drops into church and wants to talk, either about a specific problem or just because they have no-one else in their life. A busy town centre can feel very lonely to someone who has nobody. One of the current 20-strong team of trained Listeners, supplemented when need be by a couple of "retirees" who still offer their expertise to fill gaps in the rota, is available in the cafe 6 mornings a week. This year they engaged in 250 meaningful encounters and many welcoming chats. Sadly we also lost our excellent Administrator

Hilary English. If you'd be interested either in listening or the admin role, please see Sandy Cragg. As we can't take photos of people using a confidential service, the attached is kindly posed by team member Jane and Libby.



Welcome Desk Vergers – Sheila Cheek

The Verger team currently consists of 37 volunteers, 13 of whom have a regular weekly shift, some who cover shifts perhaps once or twice monthly and some who fill in the gaps wherever necessary. Generally, the rota has stayed very well attended with usually 90% or more of the slots being filled each month. The most difficult shifts to fill are still at the weekends when naturally people are busy. Nevertheless, there are Verger shifts three times a day from Monday to Saturday and two on Sundays.

Although we have lost several members of the team through illness or other outside commitments, we have gained three new volunteers since September 2024 and two possible further volunteers will take on the role within the next month. I work closely with Kate, the Communications Officer, in finding and inducting new team members.

Vergers realise the importance of All Saints Church to the local community and remain committed to welcoming all visitors.



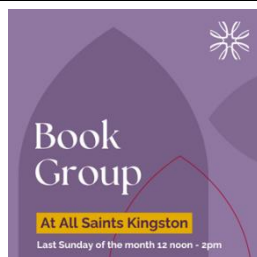
Coffee Group – Carys Griffiths

This is a relaxing and friendly group which aims to make everyone feel welcome whether they join us once or every Thursday morning. The number attending fluctuates from 4 to 16. There is a lot of chatting, laughter and a little bit of competitiveness when we have word games or quizzes, but all in good humour whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee.

Sometimes the church café is unavailable to us, so we decamp to another local venue. At Christmas we went to Squires Garden Centre in Teddington for an enjoyable brunch and a browse around the shop.

As a group we support each other in any way we can, when the need arises. This has proven to be of benefit when any problem is discussed and suggestions made to try to solve the issue.

I am very grateful to Beryl Walker and Janet Neville for their support. We look forward to another entertaining and thought-provoking year.



Book Group – Anne Nicholson

We continue to meet monthly and now have seven committed members. Since the book group was formed we have enjoyed the wide range of books suggested by the Church Times Book Club accompanied by an informative article and questions to focus our discussion. Sadly the Church Times stopped their book club page at the beginning of 2025. We have decided to continue on our own either trying to access the Church Times archive or choosing books ourselves. New members are always welcome.



English Conversation – Revd William Allberry

This friendly, informal group exists to offer simple English conversation practice, especially to refugees or other visitors to the country. We have five volunteers and meet fortnightly in the church. We have a small, regular following but continue to publicise the group with the colleges, refugee organisations, and with the Borough.



Knitting Group – Catherine Fennemore

This year we have sent to MALAWI: 156 large, medium, small & cot blankets, 156 large, medium & small T-shirts, 175 hats, 6 small cardigans, 29 pairs mitts, beautiful knitted toys and 116 "fish & chip" sets. These babies were called "fish & chip" babies because their mothers were so poor that they had to wrap the babies in newspaper when taking them home.

Our members provided underwear and materials needed for ladies to make sanitary products.

Centre to train ladies as dressmakers: this skill enables them to earn an income and assist with providing for their families. Haberdashery items and any sewing machines gratefully received. When the ladies leave the centre they are provided with a sewing machine so they can immediately begin to work independently. "A hand up not a hand out".

For more information please visit: www.africanvision.org.uk.

The poppies knitted by members to commemorate those lost on active service in war were again displayed in November.



Kate Shrimpton (left) & Jenny Bridges at the KBBA Event 2025



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April 2025



ALL SAINTS
KINGSTON

Athelstan Coronation Anniversary Events

Thursday 4th September 2025

2pm Grand Unveiling. Including Athelstan Anniversary Address by Historian Tom Holland.

6.30pm Festival Service. All Saints choir and the choir of Tiffin School will sing coronation classics and a new Te Deum, specially commissioned for the occasion by contemporary composer Marco Galvani. Guest preacher Athelstan scholar Professor Sarah Foot.

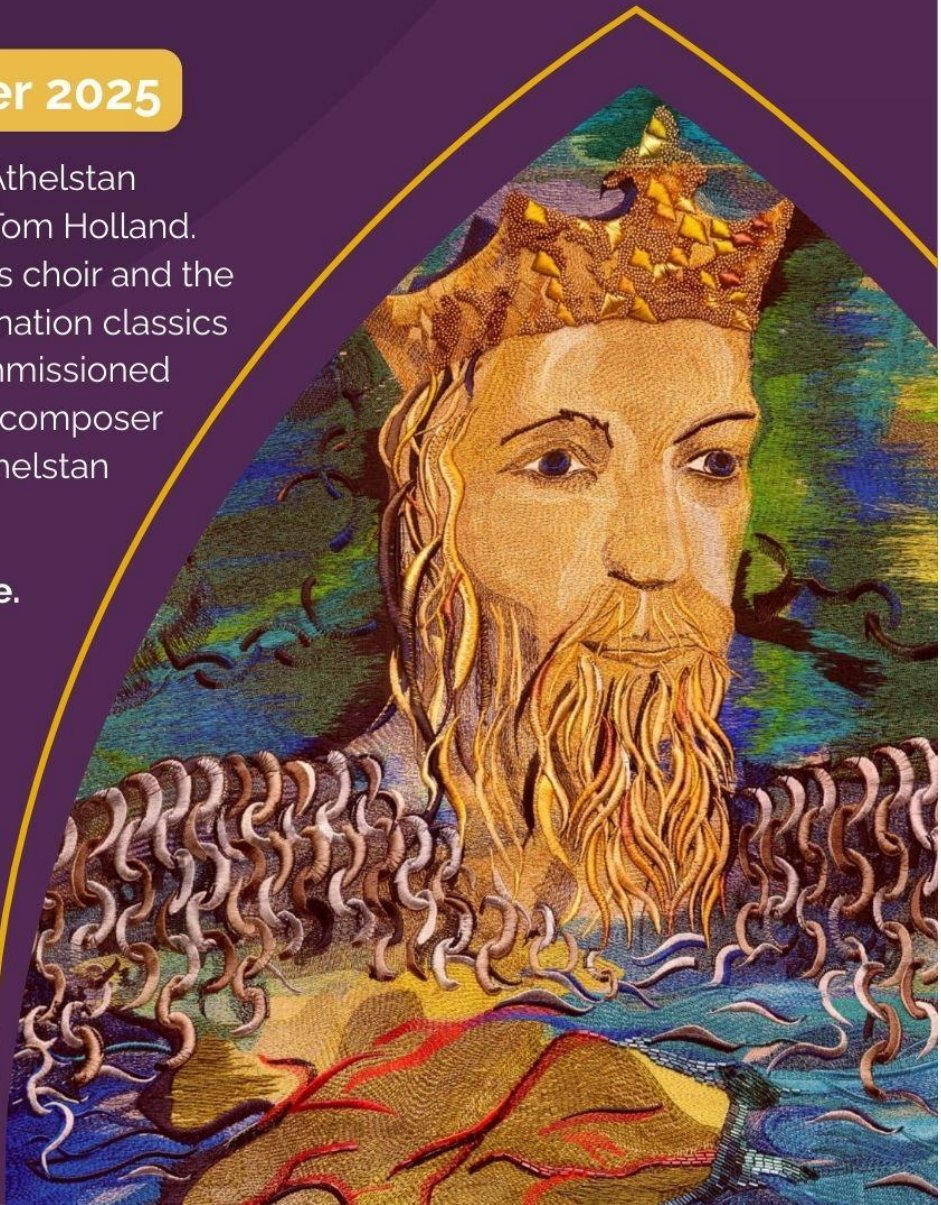
These events are **ticketed but free.**

Please book via

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/
all-saints-church-kingston](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-kingston)



www.allsaintskingston.co.uk





ALL SAINTS
KINGSTON

Regular Services

At All Saints Kingston

Tuesday 9am: Morning Prayer

Tuesday 12noon: Holy Communion

Wednesday 12noon: Holy Communion

Wednesday 5.30pm: Choral Evensong

Thursday 12noon: Holy Communion

Sunday 8.00am: Holy Communion

Sunday 9.30am: Choral Eucharist

(with Children's Church that meets in an adjacent room)

Sunday 6.00pm: Choral Evensong